

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR OVERHEAD TUNNELING

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 The invention is directed to techniques and mechanisms, used in a
beginning tunneling device, for detecting an initial request, identifying the initial
request as a candidate to be a tunneling request, modifying at least one indicator
of an initial header in the initial request to convert the initial request into the
tunneling request, and forwarding the tunneling request towards an end
10 tunneling device. The invention is also directed to techniques and mechanisms
in an end tunneling device for detecting a tunneling request, identifying the
tunneling request as a candidate to be an initial request, modifying at least one
indicator of a tunneling header in the tunneling request to convert the tunneling
request into the initial request, and forwarding the initial request towards a
15 destination device. The embodiments of the invention add little or no packet
overhead.